

Merrimack School District Budget Committee  
January 23, 2019  
Minutes

Present: K. Bobbitt, L French, J. Guagliumi, S. Heinrich, D. Illg, C. Lang (by phone), G. Savitch and B. Stisser

Excused: A. Hyde-Berger, S. Jacoby, C. Mower, M. Murphy and School Board member N. Schoenfeld

Also present: Superintendent M. Chiafery, Assistant Superintendent Dr. M. McLaughlin, Assistant Superintendent for Business M. Shevenell and various department heads

S. Heinrich called the meeting to order at 7:08 P.M and asked new Merrimack High School principal, Sharon Putney, to lead those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Announcements**

S. Heinrich announced that there were several members excused and both the School Board liaison and the alternate were unable to attend the meeting. He told the Committee that C. Lang would participate in the meeting via telephone and he reminded the Committee that all votes taken while she was on the phone were required to be roll call votes.

At this time, Carol Lang joined the meeting via speakerphone. She said she was in Satellite Beach, Florida and there was no one in the room with her. (There were connection problems through-out the meeting.)

### **Department Budget Reviews**

S. Heinrich asked the members to introduce themselves.

#### **Elementary Schools**

MES – Principal Michelle Romein and Assistant Principal Allisha Hansen-Proulx

TFS – Assistant Principal Julie DeLuca

RFS – Principal Kim Yarlott and Assistant Principal Rachel Schneider

Committee Liaisons: D Illg, G. Savitch, L. French and N. Schoenfeld

Liaison Report: D. Illg told the Committee that the budget was very much in line with past budgets. He said items of note included new social-emotional learning skill classroom kits, curriculum based assemblies for kindergarten and continued furniture replacement.

Department Head Report: K. Yarlott told the Committee that the proposed budget is pretty much the same as last year except that funds have been added for kindergarten assemblies. She said no funds had been budgeted for either assemblies or field trips as part of implementation of full day kindergarten program. After review, staff decided to request assemblies rather than field trips. K. Yarlott also said that another new item in the budget was the purchase of social-emotional

learning skill kits to support the next phase of this program. Finally, she said that the elementary schools are almost finished with furniture replacement. She noted that Thorntons Ferry and Reeds Ferry are 50 years old this year and still have some of their original furniture.

Discussion included the following:

- The social-emotional program was implemented 4 years ago at the suggestion of the district's mental health group. Teachers teach explicit skills such as decision making, how to work out problems, and how to self-regulate.
- There was nothing cut by the School Board or Administration that any of the elementary school administrators felt should be restored.

### **Mastricola Upper Elementary School**

Principal Marsha McGill

Committee Liaisons: S. Jacoby, C. Mower and A. Hyde-Berger.

Liaison report: S. Heinrich told the Committee that the liaison lead, S. Jacoby, sent him an email to report that a decline in field trip costs was because Enterprise City is no longer in business and that the furniture replacement is a multi-year project..

M. McGill told the Committee that the budget proposal includes funds to purchase texts, consumable instructional materials and other resources to support the School District's goals in literacy, numeracy, technology and instructional climate. She said the school is in year four of a twelve year furniture replacement plan. She told the Committee that the budget also included funding for the social-emotional learning kits for use with 5<sup>th</sup> graders.

Discussion included the following:

- Enterprise City:
  - This was a program that gave students an opportunity to spend a day "working" in a small city.
  - There is currently no other local program like Enterprise City.
  - The Enterprise City field trip has been replaced with an in-house event called Career Day.

### **Merrimack Middle School**

Principal Adam Caragher

Committee Liaisons: K. Bobbitt, J. Guagliumi and S. Jacoby

Liaison Report: K. Bobbitt told the Committee that the budget was pretty straight forward and similar to last year. He indicated that the curriculum for the Technology Education (Tech Ed) and Family and Consumer Science (FACS) courses is changing which results in need for new equipment and instructional materials. J. Guagliumi told the Committee that, with the school being 15 years old, some of the cafeteria tables are worn out and need to be replaced.

A. Caragher told the Committee that the proposed budget supports the School District's goals in literacy, numeracy, technology and safety. He said supplies are budgeted on a per pupil cost

which means the amount requested changes as the projected enrollment changes. He also said there would be a new provider for the Tech Ed and FACS program materials.

Discussion included the following:

- If a turf field is installed at the high school, A. Caragher does not expect that middle school games will be played at the high school or that there would be an impact on the middle school athletic transportation budget.
- Middle school students do use the high school track for practice but are able to take regular buses from the middle school to the high school.

### **Merrimack High School**

Principal Sharon Putney, and Assistant Principals Richard Zampieri & Peter Bergeron  
Committee Liaisons: K. Bobbitt, M. Murphy and A. Hyde-Berger

Liaison Report: K. Bobbitt told the Committee that the budget was straightforward and similar to last year's budget though he highlighted that a significant number of laptops and calculators had been requested. He said that some of the wrestling mats need to be replaced. In addition, he indicated that there were funds for student transportation to non-high school practice fields.

S. Putney told the Committee that most budget lines were level funded or slightly reduced but there were increases in athletics, mathematics and necessary supports to provide differentiated instructional materials for diverse learners.

Discussion included the following:

- Schools commonly share large wrestling mats with other schools for use of large, invitational meets.
- "Real care" babies are currently used in the FACS courses and some of them need to be replaced.

At this time, C. Lang left the meeting.

### **Approval of Prior Minutes**

K. Bobbitt made a MOTION to approve the minutes of November 27, 2018. Second: D. Illg. There were no corrections or additions. MOTION PASSED: 6 – 0 – 1. (L. French abstained.)

D. Illg made a MOTION to approve the minutes of December 11, 2018. Second: G. Savitch. There were no corrections or additions. MOTION PASSED 6 – 0 – 1. (K. Bobbitt abstained.)

### **Public Participation**

There was no public participation.

S. Heinrich asked M. Chiafery if she or the Assistant Superintendents had any comments they wanted to make. They had none.

**Other**

S. Heinrich reminded the Committee that the next meeting was on Tuesday, January 29<sup>th</sup> and that those who could not make the meeting should remember to contact him.

S. Heinrich said that the meeting packet included a Committee contact list and asked members to notify the Committee clerk of any corrections.

J. Guagliumi made a MOTION to adjourn. Second: D. Illg. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

S. Heinrich adjourned the meeting at 7:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Heinrich